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*Committee 14*  
*IHC*

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INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION HANDLING COMMITTEE  
of the

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

Office of the Chairman

IHC-MM-9/74

22 May 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Intelligence Information Handling Committee (IHC)  
SUBJECT : Collection and Processing Capabilities

USIB/IRAC Document 22.1/15, dated 13 May 1974, on this subject, is attached. This is a general statement of DCI intent that is part of the background against which we will be working in the future to frame and implement a more specific series of projects for the IHC.



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Acting Chairman, IHC

Att

Distribution:

- 1 - IHC Reps. & Alts.
- 1 - IC Registry ✓
- 1 - IHC Reading
- 1 - IHC-MM File
- 1 - NCF Chrono

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## THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

13 May 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: United States Intelligence Board  
Intelligence Resources Advisory Committee

SUBJECT : Collection and Processing Capabilities

1. One of the most persistent problems confronting the Intelligence Community is the adequate exploitation of the large quantity of information collected by various collection systems, primarily the technical systems. This problem is becoming even more acute as our collection systems become more sophisticated and are designed for increased capacity.

2. On the surface it appears that the Community is managing to cope with this problem, but I am not confident that this is true in all cases. Some processing activities seem to be staying abreast of the collection volume reasonably well; others are keeping up by adjusting internal processing to meet highest priority requirements. This results in substantial volumes of collected material never being processed. The value of this unprocessed material is not known. Moreover, my impression is that we are gradually losing ground as we continue to collect volumes beyond the capability of our processing resources.

3. Future prospects are even more troublesome. Virtually all proposals for new initiatives, modernization or systems improvements that come to me provide for increasingly greater volumes of collected data. There are current examples of this in overhead, airborne and ground systems, both mobile and fixed. There are one or two systems proposed which would increase the collected volume by several orders of magnitude.

4. Against these increasing collection capabilities, I see less than equivalent consideration being given to exploitation. Some of the collection proposals fail to address processing requirements, while others simply provide for greater selectivity of a small percentage of

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the collected information to be processed. The extent of intelligence loss in data collected but not processed will remain unknown.

5. It is incumbent on the Community that collection and processing capabilities be put into better balance. We must regard the intelligence process as a total system which can be effective only when collected data has been processed, analyzed and the end product presented in a meaningful way.

6. I solicit the attention of IC program managers to this problem. In particular, I request that proposals for new or improved collection systems be accompanied by companion proposals concerning processing and analysis of data to be collected.

7. It is my intent to include in my FY 1975 Objectives recommendation to the President a specific objective that will facilitate our collective effort against this problem.



W. E. Colby

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